NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.

DEFICE M. W. CORNER MARRAU AND FULTON STR.

AMUSEMENTS THIS DAY AND EVENING.

PROADWAY THEATRE Broadway-ENCHANTERSS-TO POWERY THEATRE, BOWERY—Afternoon—BLIND MINI-MERHANIC AND THE GORD, Evening—OBJECT OF INVESTMENT—JAUKETS OF BLUE MASSACRE OF MICHILLIMAN

MIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway-Bonemian GIRL. BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street-Nick Young

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway-Laugh when you san-A Gentleman FROM Incland-Arryul Dodger

METROPOLITAN THRATRE. Broadway—Afternoon half of the Lake-A Ghost in Spite of Hisself fisher of the Beath. Evening—Jossiczn Brothers Bell Ringer of Boston—Spectar Bridgerom. AMERICAN MUSEUM Merning VILLAGE PROPLIGATE -A GHOST IN SPITE OF HIMSELF. Afternoon Two Performances Don Casar De Bazan. Svening Ros Roy.

WOOD'S VARIETIES-Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway-

BECKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, ASS Breadway-Brox-

New York, Monday, December 25, 1854.

The News.

By the arrival of the steamship Washington at his port, and the America at Hatifax, we have de sails of European news to the 6th instant, and a copious summary, by telegraph, of intelligence to

The important feature of these advices is the treaty between Austria and the Western Powers, by which, according to some accounts, the former is bound, within a brief space of time, to declare war against Russia unless the Czar accept certain peace propositions. Upon this point we have given our views at length in the editorial columns.

There is nothing from the Crimes except reports of scrtice of the garrison of Sabastopol, and skirmishes between detached portions of the opposing losses, without any marked real, on either side. A late despatch from Gen. Canrobert states that with the return of fine weather siege operations would exhibit greater activity, and we may therefore expect, by the next arrival, news of a more startling character than we have lately reseived. Meantime both armies were being reinbreed, and furnished with the necessary supplies for the winter campaign. A thrilling description of the burricane in the Black Sea, which comm on the 13th ult. and continued for three days, is given in another column. Thirty-five ships of the allies were totally destroyed, and as many more were seriously damaged; but notwithstanding the Brightful violence of the tempest, and the almost emparalleled destruction of vessels, the number of lives lost did not exceed three hundred. The full lorce of the storm was felt at the harbors of Eupasoria, Katch: and Balaklaya, where the vessels of the allied squadron suffered so severely. While the gale raged with its greatest fury a strong force of the Russians advanced upon and attacked Eupawia, but they were promptly repulsed.

Our advices from Spain do not mention any fact

The commercial intelligence by these arrivals may be found elsewhere. At London on the 8th inst. money was in fair demand. Consols were conted at 98 a 93 d. United States stocks were in good demand, without any change in prices; State escrities are reported as slightly reduced. Cotton. provisions and breadstuffs are quoted at the same rates as by previous advices. Freights at Liverpoel also remained unchanged, but there was a excity of steerage passengers.

The next news from Europe will reach us by the Atlantic, which left Liverpool on the 16th inst. for this port.

The news from Halifax was too meagre, and received too late in the day on Saturday, to exercise any influence on produce in this market Floor was quite firm, with tolerable free sales, and commo State brands were about 124 cents per barrel higher. White Genesace wheat alloat, and delivered, sold at short \$2 481; and Canada ditto, in bond, at \$2 025. Corn was firm, with sales for export and distilling at higher rates. Western mixed brought 99 c., and new Southern yellow, \$1. The light stock of cot market was firm, and holders generally demanded rates above the views of buyers.

The Bremen bark Clio, arrived yesterday from Bremen, lost nine children on the passage; the Bremen bark Atlantic, from the same port, lost Sour children; and the Hamburg ship Herschel, from Hamburg, lost twenty. What disease it was which proved so fatal to these little travellers is not ed, but it is presumed to have been caused by the bad atmosphere of a crowded steerage, added to the deprivation of necessaries, with difficulty to

be got on board ship. Capt. Harper, of the bark Charles E. Lex, bas ed us some interesting information respect ing the salt traffic at Matthewtown, Inagua, the lities enjoyed there for manufacturing the article, and the advantages it offers to traders, by the very low rates of port and other charges. The salt poeds of this island are the finest and most extensive in the world, and have excellent bottoms. The vield during the past six months has realized the sum of \$60,439, and the only drawback to a large ers. At the time Capt. Harper left the island-December 8-all the salt on hand had been sold: but the pends appeared nearly in condition for an other raking. The advantages offered to vessels are a fine anchorage, with unsurpassed facilities f r loading. Passing vessels can anchor without charge, except when a pilot is required; and in such cases ships of two hundred tons burthen are charged but two dollars and a half. Supplies of all kinds can be had in abundance. The population of the island is between five and six hundred. The value of the imports for the past six months amousted to \$8.640, which shows a very large and profitable balance of trade in favor of the salt

PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS.—It is fast becoming disreputable to be a publisher. There is a family here somewhat known in a small way in literature, two of whose members-a brother and sister-write books which are vastly puffed by the insect press. The world is given to understand that this charming pair have quarrelled, and in imitation of Lady Bulwer and Sir Edward, have written books to abuse each other in good round terms. Whereupon their respective publishers get small editors to esponse each side of the question, and belabor each other on the subject of the rights and wrongs of the injured sister or the slighted brother, and so-this being the secret of the whole business-both books get wind and sell. Dodges of this order used to be the monopoly of quack doctors and petty shoemakers. Then again, a showman, whose whole life has been a series of disreputable tricks and a libel on the American name, gives out that he intends to write a book, and actually induces the pub-Hishers to tender for it. Only fancy publishers-men to whom the world gives credit for education, worth and self-respect-cringing and bowing to an exhibitor of waxwork and humbugs, and begging the favor of being allowed to pay him thousands for as dull a biography as was ever written. All of them deserve as severe a lesson as the successful competitor will learn. If this sort of thing continues, American publishers will soon be classed with vegetable pill in kers, and other

The European War-Fresh Complicati

The treaty of alliance signed at Vienna on the 2 inst., between Austria and the maritime Power-, marks a new and more complicated phase in the Eastern question. The precise character and terms of this instrument will not be known until a ter its ratification, and it is therefore impossible to decide as to the correctness of the different versions given of it. We learn from one source of information that Russia is expected to accept peace on the basis of certain propositions to be presented by the allies in conjunction wi h Austria; and that if the former power refuses to accede to them, Austria will at once dec'are war against her. A delay of three months—some papers state of only one-is, however, to be allowed for Russia to signify her acceptance of them. Another and later account, received from Vienna by telegraph, gives, under cover of a reservation. which throws great doubt over its correctness. a still more positive character to the treaty. Without entering minutely into its separate provisions, which will be found in another column, it is sufficient to state, generally, that according to this version of them. Austria engages herself to regard any further violation of the Turkish territory as a declaration of war on the part of Russia against herself-to reinforce her army in the Principalities, so as to leave Omer Pasha free to act-and to forward a contingent to Varna to be employed against the Russians in the Crimes, if necessity should call for it; whilst, on the other hand, England and France guarantee, under all circumstances. the territorial possessions of the Emperor of Austria. There is said to be a secret article attached to the treaty, the conditions of which have not as yet been guessed at by those who pretend to be thus far acquainted with its general provisions. Whatever may be the exact nature of this

document, there can be no doubt that it is the immediate result of the late conferences held in Paris between the veteran and energetic statesman whose views have so long influenced the foreign policy of Great Britain, and his political protegé and disciple, the French Emperor. Austria, according to all accounts, has been reluctantly forced into this treatyin all probability by a threat that her refusal would be followed by the invasion of her territories, the unfurling of the revolutionary standard in Italy and Hungary, and the blockade of her ports in the Adriatic. In fact, in the desperate crisis to which the allies were reduced, by the continued failure of their efforts in the Crimea, nothing short of some extreme measure of this sort could possibly have revived the drooping spirits and depressed confidence of their subjects. The adhesion of Austria was of much more importance to them in a moral than in a physical point of view, inasmuch as her suspicious attitude has hitherto paralyzed all the operations of the war. Hence it is easy to understand the excessive exultation displayed by the English and French ministerial journals at the accomplishment of an event which has so much present importance for them, but which may yet prove a source of as great embarrassment as it is of momentary advantage. Until we have the treaty before us we cannot of course tell the exact extent to which Austria has bound herself; but of one thing we feel assured, that the cautious and skilful states men who direct her affairs have not failed to protect her ulterior action by reservations which will in the end probably render this treaty as valueless as so much waste paper. The shameless manner in which Austria violated the spirit of her last treaty with Turkey by her arbitrary and treacherous conduct in the Principalities, shows how little importance she attaches to the faithful observance of

her engagements. tting, however, the hypothesis that sl means to carry out seriously the undertaking to which she is said to have bound herself by this new compact, so far from its simplifying the present difficult state of things, it appears to us likely only to complicate them still more. It will impart, in any case, an entirely new character to the war, and will raise a variety of fresh issues, all of them of greater importance than that which originated it. Turkish interests will be in a measure lost sight of, and the contest will assume all the importance and magnitude of a struggle in which the very existence of sev I ral European nationalities will be involved. For the present it will probably resolve itself into a strife for ascendency between the leading German Powers, backed on the one side by Russia and on the other by the allies. From the heterogeneous elements of which her empire is composed, Austria is likely to prove in the end the greatest sufferer. She cannot be insensible to this fact, and we are therefore inclined to regard her adhesion to this new treaty as dictated more by her present apprehensions than by any serious intention of honestly carrying out its prospective objects.

In this conjuncture of circumstances, so opportunely favorable to our intervention, when the Powers already engaged in the war have become alarmed at the magnitude of its consequences, whilst those who are about to be involved in it are equally trembling for what the future may produce, it is to be hoped that Congress will lose no time in giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee of Foreign Relations, by sanctioning the project of mediation suggested by Mr. Clingman's resolution. If the present opportunity is suffered to escape, it will be long before such another presents itself. The question of a peace. nonorable to all parties, or of a war, sauguinary, protracted, and universally disastrons in its results, can only be decided now. Can any mission be more glorious or honorable than that which we propose to ourselves of stepping in as peacemakers, with the hope of restoring tranquillity to the troubled and anxious mind of Europe, and stability and pros-perity to its commercial operations? Here is a noble field for our embryo statesmen in Congress to successfully distinguish themselves in. We have lost, it is true, either by death or retirement, the great minds, such as those of Clay, Calhoun, Webster and Everett, which for the last half century have exercised so important an influence over our public affairs, and which would have gladly seized upon such an occasion for displaying their enlarged views and philanthropic sympathies; but we regard the present question as one eminently calculated to develope the same noble qualities. which now probably lie latent from the want of a befitting opportunity to bring them forth. Let, therefore, our young politicians, by their efforts in the cause of universal humanity and by their strenuous advocacy of this particular

influence of their country. Of the success of the project, emanating as it will from so important a body as the federal legislature of the Unite | States, we entertain but little doubt. The European Power, will glatly avail themselves of so favorable an opportunity for a peaceful and rational settlement of their diffi-

Material Grounds for Preserving Friendly

Relations with Russ The Briti h press has been loud in its abuse of "America siding with Russia." As republicans, we have been accused of sympathizing with despotism, and enjoying its success over the so-called liberal powers of Europe. But is it so? We have certainly expressed our conviction that Russia must prove victorious in the end. We have also pointed out the advantages to be derived from maintaining peaceful relations with that empire, but in all this we have done no more than give an opinion, and reciprocate, in a measure, the kindly feelings extended towards us by the Czar. From the supremacy of the allies we have much to dread-for war, to a commercial and progressive nation like ours, may reasonably be dreaded-while, on the other hand, from the supremacy of Russia we have much to expect. By the latter the right hand of fellowship has been held out to us, and we see no reason to refuse it, though its government be despotic and its emperor the enemy of our own immediate rival. Russia seems, as it were, to have just sprung into life, and is no doubt advancing fast along the path of greatness. We have now the opportunity of establishing with her a close commercia intercourse, which will be greatly beneficial to both countries, and, as we hope, be the means of spreading for the first time a liberal influ ence among her people. With her despotism we do not sympathize, and with the cause of the present quarrel we have nothing to do; but it is incompatible with our republican ism, and far less with our material interests, to destroy the friendly feelings at present

existing between us. Let us illustrate this last assertion with a few facts. At the present moment the earnest desire of the Czar is to connect by telegraph and railroad all the important points of his vast dominions. Hence the facilities afforded to Mr. Shaffner, who lately visited St. Petersburg, to settle preliminaries and otherwise fur ther the grand enterprise of "placing a girdle round the earth." It is intended to traverse the Russian empire from the capital to Sitka, and the line, throughout, will run south of sixty degrees, with the exception of a small portion, which diverges north, for the purpose of reaching Yatousk, on the river Lena. It has also been determined to build 2,300 miles of railway-the principal road being from Moscow to Odessa. Iron is required for this-the native metal being too soft-and to procure it (the trade with England being stopped,) the Czar must necessarily turn to America.

Again, he has seen the destruction caused mong his troops by the screw ships of the allied fleet in the Crimea. Both at Eupstoria and the Alma, the English vessels as they lay along the coast, beyond the range of the enemy's guns, did fearful damage with rocket and bomb-shell. The Emperor has already been taught a lesson from experience. To be even with his opponents he must have a steam navy. The Russian pine is not to be compared with Great Britain's oaken walls. and the Czar must turn to America for timber and for ships. In working out her destiny Russia will, therefore, assist America in rev lizing her own. Nicholas has alread shown not only a willingness, but au eagerness to import American enterprise into his empire, and neither our interests nor those of the republican principles we uphold require us to draw back. We know that a wide field ned to physicia chanics and manufacturers from the United States; and who can foresee all the numerous benefits that will be derived from such a connection, to the furtherance of liberalism in one country, and the progress of commerce in both? Nor is this all. We noticed some time since that the Russian boundary in Asia had lately been extended to the River Amour, which emp ties itself into the North Pacific Ocean. This new accession of territory, as large as the whole of the New England States, was at first neglected as unprofitable. But it was subsequently found to be a splendid tea country, and now the Czar wishes to throw it open to American trade. Protected by the Island of Sagalin from the ice which flows from the Sea of Okhotsk, the mouth of the Amour-navigable for four hundred miles-is open during the whole year. To the north is the fur region of Kamtschatka, and the advantages of trade here are scarcely inferior to those recently acquired by the opening of Japan.

Are we, then, to throw away such benefits as these for an empty shadow? Surely not. Our admiration may be excited in favor of the heroes who toil and bleed and die in their country's cause on the frozen plains of the Crimea. As men, our sympathies may be especially roused for those whose Anglo-Saxon names sound familiar in our ears. God torbid that we should fail in doing every justice to the enduring courage of that race from which we ourselves have sprung. But with the cause of the war we have no concern : and with the result, it is to our advantage that Russia should preserve the integrity of her empire, and drive back her opponents.

THE LATE ARSON CASE-OUR FIRE MARSHAL -On Friday last, Charles A. Peverelly, pre viously found guilty of an attempt to burn down his own store at 147 Front street, was sentenced to four years and six months imprisonment at hard labor in Sing Sing prison. The trial in many particulars was one of importance. The prisoner had up to the commission of the offence, enjoyed a character of the highest respectability. He had numerous friends, and several able counsel were engaged to defend him. Yet all proved of no avail. Through the energy of our Fire Marshal no stone was left unturned; the proof was complete, and the ingenuity of counsel could raise no legal technicality by which their client might be saved from the grasp of justice. This is the first conviction of any importance

obtained under the regime of a Fire Marshal and the fact is significant. Every one knows that, during the last few years, the crime of arson increased to such an extent that a general feeling of alarm pervaded the community. No one felt safe; criminals were seldom detected, and never brought to trial, and property was destroy ed by bands of plunderers with the most barefaced impunity. We have, however, been proposition, endeavor at once to advance their relieved from this incubus. After several exown reputations and the moral and political periments were tried and had signally failed, the

suggestion was made and eagerly accepted by the people, that an officer should be appointed to investigate and discover, if possible, the origin of every fire. It is searcely necessary to enumerate here the benefits which the city of New York has derived, and continues to derive, from the services of a Fire Marshal, who can devote himself exclusively to the duties imposed upon him. From the experience of only a few months, all are willing to admit the importance of the office. It has a moral influence over the community which should not be overlooked or disregarded. Whenever a fire takes place, and any suspicious circumstances are connected with it, a close investigation is held, and frequently, as in the Peverelly case, a tangled web of crime is unravelled, which would otherwise have remained a secret for ever. The creation of this office has also the effect of producing greater care on the part of householders and occupants. It is a fact to be noted that in the present commercial crisis, distress has not been increased by the prevalence of large and destructive fires. This, at least, is a material benefit which comes home to us all. It is a benefit which other cities in the Union have observed and will profit by; for we understand that movements are already on foot to institute a similar office both in Albany and in Philadelphia. The present Fire Marshal of New York is an active, intelligent and efficient officer. His services to insurance companies, the city and the community at large have been valnable, and he has proved himself a relentless enemy to incendiaries. The trial and conviction of Peverelly, which could scarcely have been procured without his aid, will be a warning to criminals and will restore confidence to the citizens of New York for the future.

THE LATEST NEWS BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Interesting from Washington. CABINET RUMORS OUR

MENTS.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1854. The change in the Cabinet originated with Forney, who had received, in a letter from Buchanan, an assurance that "any step he, in confidence, might take to get Marcy out of the Cabinet, would meet with his approval."

This letter was shown among others to Cushing, and it also contained the assurance of his (Buchanan's) early retirement to private life, and a censure on Sickles. The particulars of this letter get to the ears of Marcy in spite of the cautious secreey attendant upon all the diplomatic acts of Forney. Marcy made known these facts to certain members of the Cabinet, and they in turn gave them to Pierce. It soon got abroad that Marcy

Your paper, I think, contained the earliest intelligence of this bit of news. To get popular feeling in its favor, Forney wrote to his confidential friends of the press and solicited their sid in the matter, as did also Cushing Forney taking care to reserve each letter or article as i ame to his hands for ulterior purposes. Now the story runs that Forney, at the supposed

proper time, called upon the President with his de ents and commenced proving to Pierce the unpopularity of Marcy, and the necessity for an immediate change. Pierce took the extracts or letters, turned them over one by one, and before they had all been examined. Marcy entered the President's room. Pierce, in his bland man ner, handed over the documents to Marcy, who taking them, enquired "what they were?" "Evidences," said the President, " so I am informed, of your unpopularity with the people for the office of Secretary of which Marcy followed up with the remark-" as written and procured and published by request of a person no far from your side." The extracts were returned to Forney, who left the room, having been caught in his own

About this time there appeared in sundry paper throughout the Union severe reflections upon other members of the Cabinet, which, upon comparison, were shown to have been written by the same pens that made Marcy's removal a necessity. Cushing and For ney are the supposed caterers; and so general is this impression, that Cushing has not a friend in the Cabi-net left him. There is not the slightest foundation for Marcy's resignation, and no hope that Cushing can be

From Boston.
OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS—THE MONEY MARKET-MORTALITY-ANOTHER FAILURE-THE WEATHER. Boston, Dec. 23-Evening.

Our money market was comparatively easy to-day.

Inesday had to be met to-day. The rates of interest in the street were from 1% to 2 per cent per month, for good paper. The financial prospects in the city are

per of deaths for the week was only sixty four. It is reported that Messrs, Rawson, Brigham & Co., dry goods dealers in Milk street, failed to-day, with lia-

ties of \$300,000. The creditors of Messrs. J. W. Blodgett & Co., dry goods dealers in Pearl street, recently failed, met at the Court House to-day. Claims were proved against the firm to the amount of about one million of dollars, as-

signees were appointed, and another meeting of the creditors will take place soon. The weather here continues cold and cloudy, with indications of snow. The sleighing in the suburbs is ex-

cellent, but is getting considerably worn down in the

NON-ARRIVAL OF THE SOUTHERN MAIL-SERIOUS RIOT IN ALLEGHANY COUNTY (VA.)-REDEMPTIO

OF THE PUBLIC DEDT, BALTIMORE, Dec. 24, 1854.

We have received no mail here south of Washington this evening. A serious riot occurred in Alleghany county (Va.)

yesterday, growing out of a meeting denouncing Thomp-son, the murderer of Miss Pharr. The citizens hung Thompson in effigy, when a large party of his friends ar-rived armed with pistols and knives, and attempted to cut him down. A aight then ensued, the citizens driving off Thompson's party, seizing their leader and riding him on a rail.

The redemption of the public debt at the United States Treasury last week amounted to \$885,350.

> Business Fallures. PROVIDENCE, Dec. 23, 1854.

Messrs. Seagrave & Steere of this city have made as assignment in consequence of their endorsements for Messrs. Hill, Carpenter & Co. They are amply secured for their endorsements, but are unable to realize the securities immediately. They will meet all their own obligations as they mature, and also the individual obli gations of Joiah Seagrave, Jr., and after paying them will have a handsome surplus.

Destructive Fire in Ellsworth, Me BANGOR, Dec. 23, 1854.

A destructive fire occurred in the town of Ellsworth in this State, last night. It broke out in the store Mr. Asa Edwards, which was entirely destroyed, to gether with the harness manufactory of Henry Rollins the bookstore of J. B. Osgood, the office of the Main Telegraph Company, (which was the cause of the interruption of the line, and rendered communication with Halifax impossible,) the grocery store of Messrs. H. & . K. Whiting, together with several out buildings. The dwelling houses of Mr. Somerby and Mr. S. H. Themas were badly damaged. The total loss is not known.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 23, 1854.

The cotton market for the week has been dull. Price are unchanged. In wool the market has been raths dull, with sales of 27,100 pieces. The market for printing cloths has been quiet. Prices, are without change Sales 23,100 pieces.

FROM THE COAST OF AFRICA .- The brig Reindeer, Moul ton, arrived yesterday from Ambriz, brings dates from that place to Oct. 26, and from Loando to the 28th There was an American man-of-war at Loando, name unknown. The British brig of war Philomel went ashore Oct. 22 off Loando, but was got off without any serious damage.

day from St. Domingo, brings dates to the 4th inst. The French vessels of war L'Ardent, Penelope, L'Ouest, and Meleagre, and the British war steamer Argus were in port, and one more French and two British expected.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Preparations for the Celebration in the City To-day there will be a general suspension of bus among our citizens to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Messiah. The law courts will all be closed and judges, juries, lawyers and clerks will rest awhile from their labors. The children in the public schools are to have a holiday, so that they may enjoy them selves without the fear of hard lessons before their eyes. The Custom House will be open only one hour it the day, as will be seen by the following:-

the day, as will be seen by the following:

NOTICE.—Monday, 25th inst., being Christmas Day,
the Custom House will be open from from 9 to 10 o'clock
A. M., for the entry and clearance of vessels only.

HEMAN J. REDFIELD, Collector.

JOHN EOMEYN BRODHEAD, Naval Officer.

JOHN COCHRANE, Surveyor.

Of course the usual festivities will be indulged in.

The eating houses and restaurants down town will be serted, as all who have homes to go to will share with their families the inevitable roast turkey and plum pud ding rendered sacred by immemorial custom. Some will go to church and others will attend theatres, and all will amuse themselves and be as jolly as the hard times will

It is to be noped that the poor will not be forgotten : and that those favored with this world's goods will b able to look back on the 25th day of December, 1854, as a day hallowed to them by deeds of charity and kindness to the suffering poor.

As usual, our military friends will be out in full force to-day. Among others the Rynders Grenadiers will at natives;" but this year they expect to amaze both natives and foreigners. They will parade under the command of Maj. George B. Hall; and after passing through the principal thoroughfares of our city, the will pass in review at the Park before Gen. Ward B Burnett, of the New York Volunteers, and finish the day by a grand jollification at Tammany Hall. For several weeks past the store windows along Broad-

way have given strong indications of the approach of the jolly, good natured Santa Claus. Here, in this one, is a collection of the rarest kinds of toys, set out in the most attractive manner to catch the eyes of all who have any juvenile friends to remember at this particular time. Horses of every description for the boys, dolls of all sizes for the girls, miniature houses, with furniture Jacks out of boxes, snakes that wriggle and twist every way in the most natural manner, handsome china sets for small tea parties, beds for babies that always keep wide awake, and cry whenever they are required, with basin and all the other requisites to wash the faces of the aforesaid babes. Then there are any variety of birds, beasts, and fishes for such juveniles as feel zoologically inclined. The future Cuviers and Buffons may find among these enough to interest them for months. Here are elephants as small as mice, and mice larger than elephants, fish whose scales are warranted never to fall off, dogs that bark on the slightest provocation; houses that run on wheels and gallop on rockers; lions and tigers with the most amiable looking faces; rhinoceroses forgetting all animosities at this particular season, and treating their enemies to a horn; donkeys with ears out of all proportion; whales that are always spouting; cats at their legitimate occupation of catching mice; and hundreds of animals that it would be impossible to name, so different are they from any ever classified by the naturalist, all herding together in the most friendly manner, and throwing rival happy families far in the shade. For those who have a taste for such things there are stag hunts, in which the stag is never overtaken, and the hounds are always kept at the same distance; regiments of soldiers on horseback and on foot, that are warranted always to stand fine and to fall before they fly; and cannons which are never discharged till they are peas-full.

Passing from the toy shops, which are generally surrounded by an eager crowd of youngsters, we next pass to the markets, where the eye, if not the stomach, is feasted with a profusion of all that ministers to the appetite. Vast piles of poultry and game are seen on every side-turkeys of marvellous fatness, and grees of portentious size, dressed with red and white ribbons and adorned with Curistimas greens. Not, indeed, that all the poultry are to be commended, for some of them bore eve Jacks out of boxes, snakes that wriggle and twist every way in the most natural manner, handsome china set

hard times in wall street or in Broadway, out the market on Saturday, at least, never looked so busy and thriving.

To-day will be observed throughout the Christian world. It is only within the last few years that much notice has been taken of it by our people. The Catholics and Episcopalians have always observed the day, but the Puritans never would recognize it as the anniversary of Christ's birth. They denied that the Saviour was born on the 25th day of December, as the nights were too cold for shepherds to be tending their flocks on the mountain, side, as related in the second chapter of St. Luke. This objection would hold good were it rue that the weather is as cold in Palestine as it is in New York or New England But leaving this vexed question to musty old commentators, there is no question but that Christmas is a great institution. At least the little folks think so, and it is to be hoped they have not over estimated its value to them, this year, anyway.

It may be refreshing to our readers to know that the weather was not always as cold about Christmas times as it has been this year. We are informed that sixty years ago, in Salem, Massachusetts, the ship Betsey, 190 tons, was launched on Christmas day, with the thermometer at 80 tegrees, and that it was so warm that the men and boys indulged in swimming, as in summer. Now, this might have been a very agreeable and safe performance sixty years ago, but we don't think a knowledge of the fact will induce any one to try it this year, with the thermometer at its present average.

Religious bodies, with the exception of the Catholics and Episcopalians, will not have any services in their

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and Episcopalians, will not have any services in their churches.

In the Catholic church, however, Christmas is regarded as a holiday of strict obligation, the members being required to attend mass in the morning and to refrain from all kinds of work. High mass is said in all the churches, and sermons appropriate to the day are preached. On this occasion, also, Catholics are called on particularly to be generous in their donations to the Orphan Asylums and other benevolent institutions under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, and other religious orders.

gious orders.

The Episcopal church celebrates the day by additional services according to the prescribed forms of her ritual, and decorates her edifices with evergreens. In Grace church, in addition to the regular service, the order of music contains a choice selection, as will be seen by the following programme:—

Venite exultemus Domino.
Gloria Patria, composed by Spohr.
Te Deum laudamus, composed by Hughes.
Benedictus, arranged from G. M. von Weber, by King.
Psalm lxviii, v. 1, 11, 13, 14, composed by King.

Im livili, v. 1, 11, 13, 14, composed by All Thy mercies, Lord, shall be my song, My song on them shall ever dwell; To ages yet unborn, my tongue. Thy never failing truth shall tell. Thine arm is mighty, strong thy hand, Yet, Lord, thou don't with justice regr. Possess'd of absolute command, Thou truth and mercy dost maintain.

Thy saints shall always be o'erjoy'd,
Who on thy sacred name rely;
And, in thy righteousness employ'd,
Above their foes be raised on high.
For in Thy strength they shall advance
Whese conquests from thy favor spr
The Lord of Hosts is our defence.
And Israel's God, our Israel's King.

Christmas hymn, the xlv., composed for this day King.
After the sermon, "the anthem," (words selected from the Paalms of David,) will be sung by Mrs. Bod stein, the music composed for her by Signor G. N. Tor-

SURPRISE FOR THE POOR IN WILLIAMSBURG. The children attached to the South Fifth street Metho dist Episcopal Church propose giving a substantial sur-prise to the poor to-day. They will assemble at the church at 10 o'clock, when addresses will be delivered by the pastor, Rev. Henry G. Fox, and others; a collection will then be taken up, and the proceeds applied for the benefit of the suffering poor. After the services a dinner will be supplied to a number of poor children is the basement of the church.

Dramatic and Musical Matters.

way Theatre, and the appearance of Mr. Morris Barnett at Burton's, nothing new has transpired at any of the theatres during the week. Business, technically speaking, has been bad all around, and the holidays are expected to bring it up.—At the Metropolitan theatre. Mr. Anderson has been playing to very thin houses. He took his farewell benefit on Friday, and played Claude played Pauline for the first time. At this house, o Wednesday, Mr. E. Eddy will take a benefit .--- Mr. the 2d proximo, as Hamlet.—At Niblo's Garden, W'lle Nau, Mr. St. Albyn, and others have given selections from English operas.—At the Broadway theatre, Miss L. Pyne, supported by Mr. Harrison, Mr. Borrani, &c., has appeared as Polly, in the "Beggar's Opera;" Zerlina, in "Fra Diavolo," Arline. in the "Bohemian Girl," and Catarina, in the "Crown Diamonds."—At Burton's theatre, Mr. Morris Barnett has played Monsieur Jacques three times to the great satisfaction of critical audiences .- At Wallack's the atre the plays of the week have included "Speed the Plough," "A Bachelor of Arts," "Two to One," and "A Gentleman from Ireland." A new play is announced for Wednesday evening.—Since the destruction by fire of Wood's Minstrel Hail, No. 444 Broadway, the company has been giving entertainments at the old Christy Hall, No. 472 Broadway. The same fire destroyed the building formerly known as Mitchell's Olympic, once the most popular theatre in this city .--- At the Bowery houses. On Friday night Miss Fanny Herring had a good

benefit, and was assisted by a large amount of voluntee

talent, including Mr. G. W. L. Fox, Mr. C. W. Taylor

Mr. C. Keller, and others .- Buckley's Serenaders have done nothing new lately. --- The German opera contin tow's "Marthe" was played on Thursday night last, to a crowded house.—A new musical burlesque is an-nounced in rehearsal at Burton's.—Mr. George Joroan, one of the most popular actors in New York, announces his benefit at Burton's on Thursday evening next, when Morton's comedy, 'Secrets Worth Knowing,' will be played, for the first time in four years.

The bills for this evening will give an agreeable dessert to Christmas dinners.

At the Broadway theatre, Balfe's "Enchantress" will be played, with Miss L. Pyne, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Berrani in the principal paris. In the second act & "grand bal masque" will be introduced. M'lle Zoe has been engaged, to give effect to the Terpsichorean part of

At Niblo's "The Bohemian Girl" will be produced, with M'lle Nau and Mr. St. Albyn as Arline and

At Burton's a new comedy, by J. E. Durivage, a wellknewn and popular dramatic writer, will be produced. It is entitled "A Nice Young Man." The cast includes the names of Mr. Burton, Mr. Johnston, Miss Raymond, and Mrs. Hughes. "Apollo in New York" and "The

Moustache Mania' are also to be played. At Wallack's theatre three pieces are announced, viz., 'Laugh when you Cau,'' "A Gentleman from Ireland,'' Lester, Brougham, Blake, Dyott, and Vincent, will

announced, the first at two P.M., and the second at seven P.M. A prominent feature in the bill is a new nat drama, written by Mr. De Walden, in which Mr. Eddy and Mrs. M. Jones sustain the principal characters.

At the Bowery theatre a new equestrian military drama, founded upon the novel called "Wacousta," will be produced. New scenery and a strong cast of characters. An afternoon performance will also be given.

At the American Museum four performances are an-At Wood's Minstrel Hall, 472 Broadway, an excellent

programme is announced for this evening.

At Buckley's, 539 Broadway, afternoon and evening performances are announced. The successful burlesque on "Sonnambula" will be revived on this occasion.

A grand concert, for the benefit of the poor of the Eighteenth ward, will be given next Thursday evening at the Dispensary Rooms, Twenty-third street and Se-cond avenue. We hope that the people in that section of the city will turn out in goodly numbers on this oc-

Miss Teresa Esmande, whose readings from the nation. al poetry of Ireland gave such general satisfaction, having been obliged, on account of delicacy of health, to postpone entering on her professional tour through the States, beyond the time she had arranged, was presented with a requisition numerously and influentially signed, on Thursday evening last, soliciting "another reading on Thursday evening last, soliciting "another reading from Irish and American poets of her choice, in order to gratify those who had not enjoyed the pleasure of already hearing her," congratulating her on her well-deserved success, and wishing her the compliments the approaching season. Among the names attache the requisition are those of General Hall, Judge Mo

thy, Levi Beardsley, and Wm. Vincent Wallace. Esmonde expressed her thanks for the unexpected com-pliment, and consented to give the "reading," and named Friday, Dec. 29th, as she proceeds South immediately after New Year's. The introduction of American national poems into Miss Esmonde's course will add, no doubt, a new feature of attraction to her reading. It comes off on the above named evening, at the Stuyvesant

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC FACES,-Miss Davenport has finished her engagement at the Walnut street theatre,
Philadelphia. The Caestnut street theatre is closed.— Mrs. Farren is playing a prolonged and successful engagement at the National theatre, Boston.—Mr. Forrest is drawing very large houses at the Front street theatre, Baltimore. He is to be succeeded by Levi North's equestrian troupe. Mr. C. Walcott has opened the Charles street theatre.—In New Orleans, at the last accounts, it was rumored that the American theatre was Mrs. Coleman Pope, who had been engaged by Mr Placide for the Varieties, but who found the theatre a mass of ruins upon her arrival at New Orleans, had a benefit offered to her, which was to take place on the evening of the 16th instant. Mr. George Holland was to have a benefit at the Orleans theatre on the 18th instant; and Miss Louisa Howard and Mr. H. Farren were to conclude their engagement (rather a successful one, it is said) at the St. Charles theatre on the 16th instant, with a omplimentary benefit. A series of masked and fancy Mr. Chanfrau is playing at Memphis, Teun.—Mr. Crisp has opened the Savannah theatre, and Miss Robertson was announced to appear there on the 18th .--- Madame de Vries has lately been singing at Nashville --- As Mr oke, in recently performing the character of Richard the Third, at the Liverpool Amphitheatre, feil upon the stage at the close of the fifth act, struck down by the sword of Richmond, the moment of breathless silence which followed was suddenly broken by a voice from the gallery, shouting in tones of encouraging suggestion to Mr. Villiers, who played the part of conqueror, "Now's your time, old chap; off with his boots!"

LOUISIANE RACES.
UNION COURSE, Dec. 16—purse \$100, mile heats,
A. W. Small's c. f. Gallatini, by Gallatin, dam
Eliza Mills—3 y. o.
E. Slevin's b. f. Raffle, by imp. Yorkshire, dam by
imp. Trustee—3 y o.
B. Riley's s. m. Sarah Taylor, by Glencoe—aged
— vears.

Domestic Intelligence.

A duel was fought at St. Foy, near Quebec, Canada on Friday, between Mesers. Irvine and Pope, advocates of that city. Neither were hurt.

Gentlemen of Taste Pronounce the Espen-CHEID hat, for the holiday season, agfashion's favorite, it is classically proportioned and truly elegant. Those want of a superior hat are invited to call at 118 Nas-

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.—There is plenty of fun abroad, notwithstanding lengthened visages and ominous forebodings of the croakers, and we have no doubt that our holiday season will pass of with its usual celat. While reveiling in roast turkeys, chicken fricasees, mince pies, crullers, and doughnuits; while indulging in punches, sparkling Catawba, and hot stuff; while patronizing the jeweller, bookseller and toy dealer, do not forget that KNOX has a splendid variety of holiday hats for gentlemen, magnificent furs for the ladies, and tasty and becoming hats for the young people, and these he is selling "dog cheap." His entablishments are at Nos. 128 Fulton street and 533 Broadway.

Real Life Size .- The Only Real Life Size photographs, made really on canvas, and finished in oil, are those done by ROOT, No. 363 Broadway, corner of Franklin street. Call and see them, and observe that they are not taken on paper and pasted on the canvas. Every style of picture taken in any kind of weather.

It Will Go Into a Stocking.—If you would delight a darling child, get your likenesses at ROOT'S great gallery, No. 363 Broadway, and leave it where Santa Claus will see it. He will be sure to put it into the stocking.

Anson's Large Size Daguerreotypes, for 50 cents, colored, and in a nice case, with preserver—twice the size others make for fifty cents, and equal to \$2 pictures elsewhere. ANSON'S, 589 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.

Meade Brothers' Superb Gifts for the Holi-days.—Daguerreotypes set in most beautiful styles on Christmas day. Sets of views on glass and paper, in catty boxes, for centre table, producing sunlight and monolight effects. New goods just received from Europe, at prices to suit the times. 233 Broadway, four doors above the Astor House.

Knapp's Daguerreotypes. Price to suit the times; fine gold lockets, pins, rich cases and frames, 25 per cent below cost. L kenesses in all weathers. Call daily, before 3 P. M., at 569 Broadway, between Metro politan and St. Nicholas hotels.

Large Size Daguerrectypes for 50 cents, are taken at HUTCHINGS old stand, No. 295 Broadway, co-lored, and including case lined with velvet, equal, if not superior, to those taken elsewhere for two dollars.

The Book of Books—Magnificent Holiday present—Dunigan & Brother's highly illustrated edition of the Catholic Bible, with Haydock's Notes: approved by the Most Rev. John Hughes, Archbishop of New York. No more splendid present can be made to a Catholic friend than a copy of this superb Bible—the most beautifully printed, bound, and illustrated edition in the world. The publishers invite all to compare it with Harper's celebrated Bible, or any other heretofore published, in paper, type, illustration, or purity of text. Its Commentary is unequalled in extent, and compiled with the utmost judgment and care. The prices are such as to put it in the reach of every family, ranging, according to the style of binding, from 314 to \$25. A limited number in super-extra binding, for presentation, now on hand. DUNIGAN & BROTHER, 151 Fulton st. The Book of Books - Magnificent Holl-

New Music.—"To morrow, Mo.morrow"—Ballad as sung by Mr. Barnett in the character of Mons. Jacques, in his popular drama of that name, as played at Burton's with the greatest success. Title page embellished with vignets of Mr. Barnett in character. Price 38 cents. "A Noffe's Daughter," ballad, sung in the same piece. Price 25 cents.

HORACE WATERS, Publisher, 393 Broadway.